

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

HOMELESS PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Temporary Homeless Assistance (HA) – A homeless CalWORKs family can receive from \$65 up to \$125 per night (depending on the Assistance Unit's size) for temporary shelter in a hotel/motel or commercial establishment for up to 16 consecutive days (receipts are required to verify the hotel/motel expense). Payments are issued in increments of no more than seven days at a time.

Permanent Homeless Assistance (HA) – A homeless CalWORKs family can receive help with move-in costs, such as last month's rent, deposits, utility deposits, and cleaning fees, provided the family's rent costs do not exceed 80% of the total monthly household income.

HA Permanent Arrearage Payment – CalWORKs families who have received an eviction notice or notice to pay or quit due to non-payment of rent because of a financial hardship, not a lease/contract violation, may qualify to pay for up to two months in rent arrearages to prevent eviction. The family's monthly rent costs cannot exceed 80% of the total monthly household income. Proof of financial hardship is required.

Moving Assistance (MA) for CalWORKs Families – CalWORKs families who are experiencing a financial crisis, including homelessness or at-risk of homelessness (already received eviction notice or 3-day notice to pay or quit) may receive funds to secure permanent housing. If the family is homeless, they must have exhausted all other means of assistance including HA. If the family is not homeless, they must demonstrate that they are experiencing a financial hardship that could result in homelessness. Proof of financial hardship is required. MA provides funds for the last month's rent, security deposits, utility turn-on fees, and moving expenses (e.g., truck rental). The program also provides up to \$405 for a stove and/or refrigerator. A family may receive up to \$2,000 in MA and MA can be used in conjunction with permanent HA to purchase a stove/refrigerator or for truck rental only.

NOTE: Effective October 1, 2010, this program is available only to families meeting their Welfare-to-Work requirements (participating in the GAIN Program).

Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction (EAPE) - Helps CalWORKs families who are at risk of losing their housing because of non-payment of rent due to a financial hardship (not for any other lease/contract violations) to prevent eviction and remain in permanent housing. EAPE provides up to \$2,000 to help pay rent and/or utilities for up to two months in arrears to assist the family in maintaining permanent housing. This program can be used "as needed" until the \$2,000 limit has been exhausted.

NOTE: Effective October 1, 2010, this program is available only to families meeting their Welfare-to-Work requirements (participating in the GAIN Program).

Housing Relocation Program - Provides a one-time-only relocation subsidy of up to \$1,500 to eligible CalWORKs participants working 20 hours or more per week or with a documented offer of employment for 20 hours or more per week. In addition, the family may receive up to \$405 to purchase a stove/refrigerator if needed for the new place.

4-Month Rental Assistance (RA) Program for CalWORKs Families– Assists homeless CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work families to remain in non-subsidized permanent housing by providing a short-term rental subsidy. Families receiving HA Permanent Housing and/or MA may qualify for a rental subsidy of up to \$300 per family (based on the family size) for up to four consecutive months.

NOTE: All of the above homeless programs are once-in-a-lifetime. Some programs may be accessed again when certain exceptions are met (domestic violence, mental or physical illness, prior residence becoming uninhabitable, or natural disaster).

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Homeless CalWORKs Families Project - This joint effort between DPSS, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) connects homeless families in which a parent has mental health problems with public benefits, including employment/supportive services, and assists them in finding permanent housing. It also provides emergency housing vouchers, transportation, and crisis intervention.

Emergency Shelter & Services – DPSS contracts with LAHSA to provide emergency housing and shelter services for homeless CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work families. Eligible families may receive up to 120 days of emergency shelter. The program also includes limited case management, transportation, and assistance in finding permanent housing or moving the family into transitional housing.

Homeless Case Management – Homeless Case Managers (HCMs) work with CalWORKs homeless families to facilitate their access to services, initiate referrals, and move the family into permanent housing. The services include crisis intervention, short-term stabilization, needs assessment, employment services, advocacy, and an individualized housing plan.

Skid Row Access Team (SRAT) – A team comprised of staff from Departments of Public Social Services (DPSS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH) and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) identifies homeless families in the Skid Row area and connects them with available benefits and services.

District Access Team – CalWORKs district offices have designated Eligibility workers (EWs) from their Housing Resources Unit as part of their access teams to connect families with CalWORKs and eligible homeless programs and services. The EWs are placed on an “on-call” basis to accept potential applications from access centers and shelters. If the family cannot travel to the district office and the shelter/access center cannot provide transportation, the Access Team will travel to the shelter/access center to assist the family as needed.